

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5164
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FOR TIGER CONSERVATION
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Wildlife Fund -international has put its tiger conservation programme in India on hold and frozen all its tiger conservation related funds to India chapter WWF-India
- (b) if so, the reasons for holding back funds; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the funds released at the earliest?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - International does not provide any assistance for Tiger conservation either to Union or State Government in India. WWF - International was supporting the tiger conservation programme run by WWF - India under which financial assistance was provided to State Govt. for supplementing national tiger conservation efforts. WWF- International made a request to Government of India that they would like to have a Regional Office at New Delhi to support Tiger Conservation efforts in India and neighboring countries. The Ministry of Environment and Forests being satisfied with the profile of the then Director, Tiger Conservation programme and WWF - International issued a no objection certificate to this project. The no objection certificate had to be withdrawn later on account of some inaccuracies about geographical boundaries of India in several publications made by WWF - International and allied institutions. These inaccuracies were brought to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests by the then Secretary General, WWF -India. The WWF -International was upset by these steps. There has been a definite decline in the activities of WWF India - Tiger Conservation Programme after October, 1999. Involvement of the representatives of Government of India in programme formulation has also ceased after October, 1999.